Claims

1. A method, including steps of

repeatedly reviewing monitoring statistics regarding operation of a file server, said steps of reviewing being performed at least as often as a selected time period;

processing said monitoring statistics using a diagnostic software module, in response to said steps of repeatedly reviewing;

whereby a result of said steps of processing includes a diagnosis of a behavior of said file server.

2. A method as in claim 1, wherein said diagnostic software module includes a pattern matching system and a rule-based inference system

3. A method as in claim 1, wherein said monitoring statistics include information gathered by at least a first and at least a second software module, said first and second software modules being disposed at differing levels within an operating system of said file server.

4. A method as in claim 1, wherein said monitoring statistics include information gathered by at least one software module within an operating system of said file server.

5. A method as in claim 1, wherein said selected time period is less than 10 seconds.

6. A method as in claim 1, wherein said steps of processing are responsive to a usage profile for said file server.

7. A method as in claim 6, wherein said usage profile includes information regarding whether use of said file server includes usage as an ISP, a development environment, a mail server, or otherwise.

8. A method, including steps of

selecting a set of parameters for a first communication protocol;

attempting to communicate, between a point inside a file server and a point outside said file server, using a second communication protocol, said second communication protocol making use of said first communication protocol;

reviewing a result of said steps of attempting to communicate; and

altering said set of parameters, in response to a result of said steps of reviewing.

9. A method as in claim 8, wherein said steps of altering are performed at least as often as a selected time period of less than ten seconds.

10. A method as in claim 8, wherein said steps of altering are performed repeatedly, whereby a resulting set of parameters allows substantial communication between said first point and said second point.

11. A method as in claim 8, wherein said steps of attempting to communicate are performed using at least one hundred differing said sets of parameters.

12. A method, including steps of

imposing combined constraints on diagnosis of possible errors, in response to known logical coupling between monitoring statistics gathered at multiple logical levels of software modules within a file server; and

chaining constraints from multiple logical levels together;

whereby a number of possible errors deduced as possible from the various monitoring statistics are limited to a relatively small number.

13. A method, including steps of

tracking configuration changes to a file server;

relating changes in known monitoring statistics to timing of said hardware and software configuration changes; and

determining, in response to said steps of tracking and of relating, a configuration change most likely to be responsible for an error or other failure in said file server.

14. A method as in claim 13, including steps of suggesting activities to reverse said configuration changes so as to place said file server in an operating state.

15. A method as in claim 13, wherein said configuration changes include hardware and software configuration changes.